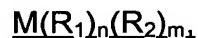


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A ferromagnetic powder composition comprising soft magnetic iron-based core particles wherein the surface of the core particles are surrounded by an insulating inorganic coating, and a lubricating amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of silanes, titanates, aluminates, zirconates, or mixtures thereof, having the following general formula:



wherein M is a central atom selected from Si, Ti, Al, or Zr,

R₁ is a hydrolysable group,

R₂ is a group consisting of a lubricating organic moiety, wherein the sum of m+n is the coordination number of the central atom;

n is an integer ≥ 1 and

m is an integer ≥ 1 .

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the compound is present as a lubricating layer on the insulated particles.

Claim 4. (Canceled).

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[4]] 1,
wherein R₁ is an alkoxy group having less than 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[4]] 1,
wherein R₁ is a chelate group.

Claim 7. (Original) A composition according to claim 6, wherein the chelate
group is a residue of hydroxyacetic acid (-O(O=C)-CH₂O-) or a residue of ethylene
glycol (-OCH₂CH₂O-).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[4]] 1,
wherein R₂ is an organic group including between 6-30, and optionally including one
or more hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P.

Claim 9. (Original) A composition according to claim 8, wherein the R₂ group
is linear, branched, cyclic, or aromatic.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 8,
wherein the R₂ group is a chain selected from the group consisting of alkyl, ether,
ester, phospho-alkyl, phospho-lipid, or phospho-amine.

Claim 11. (Original) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the R₂ is
selected from the group consisting of phosphato, pyrophosphato or phosphito.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of alkyl-alkoxy silanes and polyether-alkoxy silanes.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of octyl-trimethoxy silane, hexadecyl-trimethoxy silane, polyethyleneether-trimethoxy silane, isopropyl-triisostearyl titanate, isopropyl-tri(dioctyl)phosphato titanate, neopentyl(diallyl)oxy-trineodecanoyl zirconate, neopentyl(diallyl)oxy-tri(dioctyl)phosphato zirconate, and diisobutylacetooacetyl aluminate.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the insulating inorganic coating of the iron-based particles is phosphorous based.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the iron-based core particles consist of essentially pure iron.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein less than 5% of the iron-based core particles have a size below 45 μm .

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein at least 40% of the iron-based core particles consist of particles having a particle size above about 106 μm .

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A powder composition according to claim 1, wherein at least 20% of the iron-based core particles consist of particles having a particle size above about 212 μm .

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the compound is present in an amount of 0.05-0.5% by weight.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1, which is mixed with additives, such as particular lubricants, binders or flow-enhancing agents.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) Process for the preparation of soft magnetic composite materials having a density of at least 7.45 g/cm³ comprising the steps of

- providing an iron or iron-based powder composition according to claim 1 comprising soft magnetic iron-based core particles wherein the surfaces of the core particles are surrounded by an insulating inorganic coating, and a lubricating amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of silanes, titanates, aluminates, zirconates, or mixtures thereof;

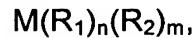
- uniaxially compacting the obtained soft magnetic powder composition in a die at a compaction pressure of at least about 800 MPa; and
- ejecting the green body from the compaction tool; and
- optionally heat-treating the compacted body.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 21, wherein the compaction is performed at a pressure of at least about 900 MPa.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 21, wherein the particle size of the iron core powder is as defined in claim 16 such that less than 5% of the iron-based core particles have a size below 45 μ m.

Claim 24. (Canceled).

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) A composition process according to claim [[2]] 21, wherein the compound has the following general formula:



wherein M is a central atom selected from Si, Ti, Al, or Zr,

R_1 is a hydrolysable group,

R_2 is a group consisting of a lubricating organic moiety, wherein the sum of $m+n$ is the coordination number of the central atom;

n is an integer ≥ 1 and

m is an integer ≥ 1 .

Claim 26. (Canceled).

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) A composition process according to claim [[4]] 25, wherein R₂ is an organic group including between 10-25 carbon atoms and optionally including one or more hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the R₂ group is a chain selected from the group consisting of alkyl, ether, ester, phospho-alkyl, phospho-lipid, or phospho-amine.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein at least 60% of the iron-based ore particles consist of particles having a particle size of about 106 μm .

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein at least 40% of the iron-based particles consist of particles having a particle size above about 212 μm .

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein at least 60% of the iron-based particles consist of particles having a particle size above about 212 μm .

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the compound is present in an amount of 0.07-0.45% by weight.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the compound is present in an amount of 0.08-0.4% by weight.

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) Process A process according to claim 21, wherein the compaction is performed at a pressure of at least about 1000 MPa.

Claim 35. (Currently Amended) Process A process according to claim 21, wherein the compaction is performed at a pressure of at least about 1100 MPa.

Claim 36. (Currently Amended) Process A process according to claim 22, wherein the particle size of the iron core powder is ~~as defined in claim 16 such that~~ less than 5% of the iron-based core particles have a size below 45 μm .